

## Chapter 6 Growth-Inducing Impacts

Section 15126.2(d) of the State CEQA Guidelines requires that an EIR discuss the growth-inducing impacts of the proposed project. Specifically, §15126.2(d) states that an EIR should:

“Discuss the ways in which the proposed project could foster economic or population growth, or the construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment. Included in this are projects which would remove obstacles to population growth (a major expansion of waste water treatment plant might, for example, allow for more construction in service areas). Increases in the population may tax existing community service facilities, requiring construction of new facilities that could cause significant environmental effects. Also discuss the characteristics of some projects which may encourage and facilitate other activities that could significantly affect the environment, either individually or cumulatively. It must not be assumed that growth in any area is necessarily beneficial, detrimental, or of little significance to the environment. “

Growth-inducing impacts can result from development that directly or indirectly induces additional growth pressures which are more intense than what is currently planned for in general and community plans. An example of this would be the re-designation of property planned for agricultural uses to urban uses. The growth-inducement that may result, in this example, would be the development of services and facilities that may encourage the transition of additional land in the vicinity to more intense urban use. Another example would be the over-sizing of services (e.g., sewer mains) to a project site which may have the additional capacity to serve more intense land uses nearby.

The proposed project would result in the construction of a solid waste transfer station/ MRF in areas designated for heavy commercial, warehouse/ distribution, and some manufacturing activities. The proposed project is consistent with the existing general plan designation and zoning for the three potential project sites, as further discussed in Chapter 3. Therefore, the proposed project is not considered a more intense use than what is currently envisioned for these sites. In addition, because the areas surrounding the three potential project sites also are primarily designated for heavy industrial uses, this project would not encourage the transition of land in the vicinity to more intense uses.

It is possible in some regions that the lack of solid waste disposal service represents a barrier to new development. However, in the Sacramento region, MSW disposal has not been indicated as a limiting factor to growth the way other issues have been (i.e., water supply, transportation/circulation facilities). This is primarily due to the large number of landfills available in the region that could accept the City’s waste and the large available capacities in these landfills. Therefore, the proposed project would not be considered growth-inducing.